



## Office of The Mayor

CITY OF ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE  
Mayor

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ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07201-2462

September 3, 2019

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Honorable City Council  
City of Elizabeth  
50 Winfield Scott Plaza  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you know, Liberty Water, which is a subsidiary of New Jersey American Water, is our Contract Water System Operator. With the recent media attention surrounding elevated lead levels found within the City of Newark's water supply, please let this letter serve as notice that I have been advised by Liberty Water, that the City of Elizabeth's water has been tested and remains safe to use as well as consume. I have further been advised by Liberty Water that our water meets or surpasses both State and Federal standards for all regulated substances, including lead.

The impacted water that has resulted in elevated lead levels within the City of Newark comes from their Pequannock Water Treatment Plant supply. The City of Elizabeth receives water from the Wanaque Water Treatment Plant, which is located in Passaic County and is not the subject of the current lead crisis.

In January 2019, the City of Elizabeth received a recommendation from Liberty Water to perform a trial, where the supply of water from the City of Newark would be completely shut off. However, when the water was completely shut off from the City of Newark, complaints of low water pressure throughout our community were received and consumer demands could not be effectively met. Liberty Water routinely tests and monitors the drinking water delivered to the City of Elizabeth at different points throughout the system. As a result of this monitoring, the City of Elizabeth was made aware of degrading water quality from the City of Newark's water supply.

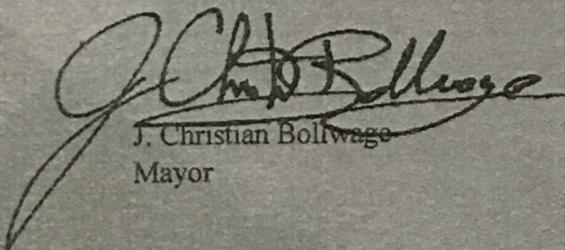
Therefore, Liberty Water further recommended taking preemptive measures to protect the municipality's water supply by reducing our consumption of Newark's water to the minimal amount possible, in order to maintain a reliable water supply to our residents and businesses. Therefore, the City of Elizabeth implemented this recommendation and proactively reduced our daily use of Newark's water to less than ten percent of our total demand. Now the balance of our municipality's water is provided by New Jersey American Water's Raritan Millstone Water Treatment Plant, which draws its water from the Raritan basin supply.

At all times, the health and safety of our residents remain a top priority and our water continues to meet or surpass both State and Federal standards for all regulated substances, including lead. New Jersey American Water maintains Water Quality Reports, which are available online at <https://amwater.com/njaw/water-quality/water-quality-reports>. These reports provide an overview of local drinking water sources for our community as well as detail the extensive testing conducted on the company's water each year. I encourage all residents to visit this website and read the informative data available.

Liberty Water has advised that testing water in stagnant and/or non-active pipes may result in abnormal readings, which may not represent accurate results for locations and surrounding areas.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



J. Christian Bollwage  
Mayor

cc: Bridget S. Anderson, Business Administrator  
William R. Holzapfel, City Attorney  
John F. Papetti, Jr., Director of Public Works  
Daniel J. Loomis, City Engineer